

THE FUTURE AGENDA

1. A number of initiatives are under way (e.g. SCANLINK, Association of Palliative Care Specialists) to establish guidelines on cancer care for minority ethnic groups. What is needed in research terms is to identify an appropriate methodology for evaluating the outcomes (e.g. survival, quality of life) of various cancer treatments for ethnic groups.
2. There is a dearth of research into the natural history of diseases such as cancer among minority ethnic people.
3. As discussed earlier, existing strategies for cancer (*Health of the Nation, A Policy Framework for Commissioning Cancer Services*) should be adapted to take into account minority ethnic needs. A workshop, with Department of Health support, should seek to do this and to develop a model for incorporating minority ethnic concerns into future policies (at the initial stages, not as an afterthought).
4. Training for health professionals must include awareness of ethnic issues in terms of cultural sensitivity and of the implications of racism, both individual and institutional.
5. Minority ethnic issues should be recognised as a neglected area of cancer research by funding bodies such as the NHS Research & Development Programme and the voluntary sector. The white voluntary sector should examine the level of representation of minority ethnic groups among its policy and funding committees.
6. The black voluntary sector should recognise the importance of cancer as a neglected health issue.
7. A range of research material already exists in relation to many of the topics discussed at the symposium. A series of critical literature reviews would be a valuable means of drawing this material together.